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SUBJECT: INDIA TO ATTEND FIFTH GLOBAL INITIATIVE MEETING AT
APPROPRIATE LEVEL

REF: 08 STATE 132539

Poloff, accompanied by Russian and Dutch counterparts, followed up on reftel demarche on January 15 with Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Director (Disarmament and International Security Affairs Division) Gaddam Dharmendra. Dharmendra began the meeting by expressing appreciation to the U.S. and Russia for helping to expedite India's participation in the Madrid meeting in June 2008, and thanked us for this invitation which enabled India to prepare with much more lead time. He noted that India is expecting general elections in the April-May time frame which would affect individual appointments to senior positions in MEA, explaining that he could not provide the specific name/title of who India's representative to The Hague would be, but assured us India would be represented at the Deputy Foreign Minister ("Secretary" in India's system) level. He urged us to provide an agenda as soon as possible, saying that would assist his division in preparing a new Secretary for the June meeting.
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